

Buffum House
Southwest corner, Main & Middle Sts.
Walpole
Cheshire County
New Hampshire

HABS No. NH-61

HABS
N.H.
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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pa.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

BUFFUM HOUSE

Location: Southwest corner, Main and Middle Streets,
Walpole, Cheshire County, New Hampshire.

Present Owner: Donald H. Spitzli, Walpole, N. H.

Present Occupant: The owner.

Present Use: Summer home.

Brief Statement
of Significance: An example of a frame house built c. 1785, re-
modeled in the 1820's. The original house with
the long, north side the main facade with Georgian
detail, became a Classic Revival house with a
new portico on the narrow, east end.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: In Buffum family 1820's-1946.
2. Date of Erection: Main body of house (Georgian) c. 1785. Classic Revival facade, 1820's.
3. Builder: Ebenezer Crehore who came in 1780 from Milton, Mass.
4. Notes on alterations and additions: Older Georgian house revised to Classic Revival in the 1820's. Classic Revival facade added with 2 story, Doric Portico. Probably original hipped roof changed to gabled roof with Doric cornice and entablature. Ell addition at west is later.

B. Important old views: Old photo in the Historical Society and in the house.

C. Sources of information:

1. Herbert Tucker, Walpole, N. H.
2. Donald H. Spitzli, Walpole, N. H.

3. Walpole History
 4. Reference Collection in the library of the Walpole Historical Society.
- D. Likely Sources not yet Investigated: History of Walpole now being written by Mrs. Frizzell.

Prepared by Dr. Frank J. Roos, Jr.,
University of Illinois, for National
Park Service, 143 South Third Street,
Philadelphia 6, Pa. - July 1959.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural Character: House originally Georgian c. 1785, facing north, with Classic Revival addition, c. 1820's, facing east.
2. Condition of Fabric: Excellent.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Foundations: Field Stone.
2. Wall construction: timber frame. Clapboard, feathered ends on Georgian facade, probably original. Beams, pegged and mortised.
3. Openings
 - a. Doorways and doors: Georgian door on north with cushion frieze. Square headed door on east with side and transom lights, leaded muntins.
 - b. Windows: Double hung windows, 6/6 light on first floor, 12/12 light on second floor. Louvered shutters. Cornices over first floor windows. Sliding (locally known as Indian) shutters on the inside of the windows.
4. Roof and portico: Gable roof. Pediment on east facade

supported by Doric columns two stories high. Flush board siding with Palladian window in pediment. Doric entablature on classic part of house in classical proportion. One Doric column with entablature over, at Southwest corner of house. Might have been hip roof earlier. Ridge pole chestnut, pegged and mortised rafters.

5. Chimneys: Two brick, six flues.

C. Technical Description of Interior

1. Floor Plan: Central hall type plan with hall oriented to east or Classic Revival facade.
2. Stairways: One at north side. Original balustrade with chair rail and wainscot on wall below.
3. Floor: Pine, random width.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Original plaster. Chair rail with panelling below. Fireplace wall in Northeast room panelled.
5. Doorways and doors: Framed with moldings.
6. Trim: Crisp moulded wood trim, typical for this date.
7. Hardware: Brass, original hardware on some doors. Steel lock boxes on doors on second floor.
8. Lighting: Electric.
9. Heating: Fireplaces only. Occupied only in summer.

D. Site

1. General Setting and Orientation: Near street - open. Classic Revival portico faces east.
2. Outbuildings: Addition at west of later date.
3. Landscaping: Shade trees and shrubs.